

**REMARKS**

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 26, 2005. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application. Claims 15 and 46 have been canceled, and Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 41, and 64 have been amended to clarify, more particularly point out, and more distinctly claim inventive concepts previously present in these claims. Certain amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims, and certain amendments are not required for patentability. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants have responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

**Claim Objections**

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the informality of Claim 64. Claim 64 has been amended to correct the informality. Applicants respectfully request removal of the objection to Claim 64.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claim 55-65.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 15, 17, 19-21, 26-27, 38, 46-47, 49-50, and 53 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action, page 10, 3rd paragraph.) Independent Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 15, and independent Claims 13 and 41 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 46. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1, 13, 14, and 41.

**Section 103(a) Rejection**

The Examiner rejects under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 1-5, 10, 12-14, 16, 22-23, 28-29, 31, 41-44, and 51 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,546,391 to Hochschild et al. ("*Hochschild*") in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,668 to Bass et al. ("*Bass*"); Claims 6-9, 24-25, 32-37, 39, 48, and 52 as being unpatentable over *Hochschild* and *Bass* in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,542,502 to Herring et al. ("*Herring*"); and Claims 11 and 30 as being

unpatentable over *Hochschild* and *Bass* in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,222 to Dziadosz et al. ("*Dziadosz*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As discussed above, independent Claims 1, 13, 14, and 41, as amended, are allowable. The claims that depend from independent Claims 1, 13, 14, and 41 are allowable based on their dependence on the independent claims and further because they recite numerous additional patentable distinctions over the references of the rejection. Because Applicants believe they have amply demonstrated the allowability of the independent claims over the references of the rejection, and to avoid burdening the record, Applicants have not provided detailed remarks concerning these dependent claims. Applicants, however, remain ready to provide such remarks if it becomes appropriate to do so.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1, 13, 14, and 41 and all claims that depend on these claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Keiko Ichiye, the Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6494.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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